

Creation of bulk handling of foodgrain infrastructure

2645. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has opened the door to private participation, including foreign, in creation of bulk handling of foodgrain infrastructure;

(b) whether this is part of the National Policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has announced a national policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains, the details of which are as under:

- (i) Creation of integrated bulk handling facilities with silos of large capacity for wheat along with testing facilities for quality control at about 20 identified central locations in producing, consuming and a few port towns for storage of foodgrains procured by the FCI.
- (ii) These facilities including the facilities for bulk transportation to these centres through specially designed top-filling-bottom-discharge wagons to be created and maintained in private sector under the over all coordination of the FCI.
- (iii) FCI to guarantee utilisation of these facilities to the extent of 100 per cent for the first ten years and 75 per cent for the next ten years.
- (iv) From these points, secondary transportation of foodgrains to be made in bag form to about 500 large godowns in important central location in different States to be owned and maintained by the FCI.

The Government has also announced various fiscal incentives for

participation of private sector in creation of bulk handling infrastructure. These include:

- (i) Scheme such as Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT), Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO), Lease-Develop-Operate (LDO) Joint Ventures etc.
- (ii) Generation of funds through public issues by private enterprises.
- (iii) Automatic approval for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100 per cent.
- (iv) Loans from financial institutions, NABARD, external commercial borrowings.
- (v) 100 per cent deductions in profit for the purpose of Income Tax for first 5 years and 30 per cent for the next five years.
- (vi) Custom duty exemption on imported machinery not manufactured in India, on a case to case basis.

The private sector will also be encouraged to build godowns in which they will store and maintain foodgrains procured by the Government agencies, for which they will be entitled to storage charges.

Farming without agro-chemicals

2646. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers have been practicing farming without using agro-chemicals and are getting record production; and

(b) if so, particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) Farmers are raising crops with varying levels of plant nutrients. No data have been collected about the farmers not using agro-chemicals at all and, therefore, about the crop yields being obtained by such farmers. However, the long term fertilizer experiments conducted by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute over last few decades have shown that the soil test based balanced